PROF. P.J. KURIEN: For manufacture of commercial vehicles today licence is not needed after the new industrial policy. Already we have a certain installed capacity and which has been almost not fully utilised. Therefore, we do not think that there is any need for any additional capacity for manufacturing light commercial vehicles.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not true that the production in both areas i.e. the production of light commercial vehicles and medium and heavy commercial vehicles has decreased during this year from April to October. The production of medium and heavy commercial vehicles rose by 26.4 per cent during the same period last year, whereas this year it has gone up by 8.2 per cent only. Last year, whereas there was an increase of 24.4 per cent in commercial vehicles, this year it has increased by 2.9 per cent only during the corresponding period. I request the hon. Minister to present the figures, at least the figures of this year, since I have the documents in which these are published by a private agency named Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy wherein it has been stated that:

In the case of light commercial vehicles, their sales during the period from April to October 1991 were lower compared to those in the comparable period of 1990 in respect of Bajaj Tempo DCM Toyota, Eicher Motors, Mahindra Nissan, Mahindra, Swaraj Mazda. While the sales of Ashok Leyland during the period under review remained stagnant, excepting Telco, no other company has been able to sell these vehicles at the same rate as it did last year.

[*Translation*]

I would like to know whether you have the latest data ? If so, why are you not informing the House about it?

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes. There is certainly a decline in the rate of growth of production. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that compared to last year with regard to commercial vehicles there is a growth. The number of commercial vehicles produced has increased. There is a certain growth. (*Interruptions*) I will explain. Please listen There is a growth. But there is a decline in the rate of growth. I will give the number...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us distinguish between growth and rate of growth. These two things are different.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: If you allow me, I will explain it. Let me first give the figures...(*Interruptions*) In the year 1991, the rate of growth was 15 per cent compared to the previous year. And whereas in the year 1991-92 for commercial vehicles, up to April, the rate of growth is 5.5. per cent compared to the corresponding period of the last year. I will give the exact number also.

In 1989-90, the number of commercial vehicles produced is 1,25,051. In 1991, the total number of commercial vehicle is 1,44,556. The rate of growth is 15 per cent. Then, coming to this current year, 1991-92, upto the October month, the production is 82,474. The number in the corresponding period of the previous year is 78,042. The increase is 5.5 per cent. So, in absolute terms the number of commercial vehicles has increased from 78,000 to 82,000. But when compared to the last year, the rate of growth has declined from 15 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

MR.SPEAKER: Question no. 387 is transferred to the Finance Ministry.

Land Acquired Under Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976.

*388. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL:
KUMARI VIMLA VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area indentified under the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 since its commencement, State-wise and year-wise,

(b) the total area acquired and distributed/allotted among the economically weaker sections, and

(c) the nu' iber of persons thus benefited?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

Sir, the Total area identified under the Urban Land ceiling Act is 2,16,537 79 hectares and the Central Act is not in force in the states of Nagaland, Sikkim Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir as they did not adopt this Central Act

Th land acquired and distrusted among the economically weaker sections was 10,373 53 hectares and this allotment is made by the state

The number of dwelling units envisaged in the scheme is 3,19,951 And of these are five in a family, then 15,99,725 persons will be benefited by this

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) The details of the estimate of excess vacant land, the extent of vacant land physically taken possession of by the State Governments/Union Territories and the number of dwelling, units envisaged in the approved schemes and the extent of land covered by the approved schemes in hectares under Section 21 of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 for weaker sections of the society as received from state Governments/Union Territories is explained in the Annexure Such information year-wise is not compiled by Government of India

Annexure

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimate of excess vacant land after scrutiny (Hectares)	Extent of vacant land physically acquited (taken possession of) by the State Govts./UTs. (Hectares)	Statement under Section 21	
			No. of dwelling Units envisaged in the approved schemes	Extent of land covered by the scheme approved (Hectares)
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	12,364-37	1,777-77	2,524	819-25
2. Assam	73-43	7-63	—	—
3. Bihar	235-45	19-16	—	—
4. Gujarat	32,513-00	770-00	1,44,550	2,120-00
5. Karanataka	9,744-27	852-97	57	4-45
6. Madhya Pradesh	16,007-73	1,447-00	1,215	26-82
7. Maharashtra	53,342-36	974-70	1,26,557	1,015-34
8. Orissa	124-60	47-08	12	1-06
9. Punjab	1,851-16	—	—	—

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimate of excess vacant land after scrutiny (Hectares)	Extent of vacant land physically acquited (taken possession of) by the State Govts./UTs. (Hectares)	Statement under Section 21	
			No. of dwelling Units envisaged in the approved schemes	Extent of land covered by the scheme approved (Hectares)
1	2	3	4	5
10 Rajasthan	27,369-14	565-55	1,837	64-81
11. Uttar Pradesh	56,690-23	3,828-03	40,886	423-85
12. West Bengal	5,007-00	46-14	—	—
13. Delhi	341-06	1-09	—	—
14. Pondicherry	264-18	18-75	—	—
15. Chandigarh	13-63	—	—	—
16. Cantonment areas	606-18	21-79	2,313	20-91
Total .	2,16,537-79	10,373-53	3,19,951	4,496-49

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: What are the reasons for the poor performance in the implementation of this Act?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Well, certain problems keep on cropping up. And it is correct to say that it is not what we would like it to be. Certain problems have arisen because we do not get enough land; land is not there that can be distributed. And then litigation will take place. And because of litigation, everything is hampered.

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, by going through (a) and (b) parts of the hon. Minister's reply, it seems that 5 per cent land has been acquired. She has stated that the land cannot be acquired due to litigation involved. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if she is thinking to amend this act for this purpose and while doing so will the suggestions in the interim reports of the National Commission on Urbanisation and Central Council for Rural Development and Urban Development and the recommendations made at the meeting of All India Council of Mayor held in 1989 be taken into consideration. Is there is a proposal to distribute land to the widows of middle class families and war widows on priority basis.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: State Governments, different organisations, important people and others have suggested amendment to this Act. Their views are being examined in detail and proposals are being modified. About widows and others who are in need of this, different State Governments can take up this matter because it is the States that distribute and allot lands.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the first part of my question is that the common people should get land to construct their houses and for this purpose an Act has been enacted. To achieve this objective Government wish to make some amendment and for that a committee has been set up...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: He has just replied, a minute back.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: What are the details of those recommendations? Secondly, does the Central Government wish to give directions to the State under this Act to distribute surplus land to the people immediately.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I have replied to your first question.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: what are the exact recommendations of the Committee?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: This is a long one. I will lay it on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER... You can go to the second part of the question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What would you like to do for the distribution of the excess land?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The excess land can be distributed for the welfare of the people. We have been asked to bear it in mind. We feel that those who are suffering or those who need land for their business or industry should be provided land under that Act.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI:... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker sir,the hon. Minister has said that the State government have been given direction in this regard I would like to know how far those directions have been followed. Can there be a time bound programme for it.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I would like

to inform the hon. Member that we have not given any directions. It is their duty and they will do it...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM NOHOR RAI... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the quota fixed for scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the surplus land which is going to be distributed. What is the percentage and names Harijans and Advasi's to whom it has been given...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: What is the quota fixed for Harijans and Adivasi's?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: There is provision for weaker sections which includes these categories also.

[*English*]

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The hon. Minister has said in her reply that out of 2.16 lakh hectares of land, less than 10,000 hectares of land has been acquired. That comes to 5 per cent of the total surplus land available. Then out of that also for only 4496 hectares of land schemes have been sanctioned. That comes to less than 2.5 per cent of the total area available. This shows, that since 1976 this Act has totally failed. In view of the liberal policy of the Government, may I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether he will consider to scrap this Act totally since it has not achieved anything what it was intended for. Secondly, this is a Central Act. This is not an Act made by the state governments. So, the central Government has to amend or scrap this Act. What is the Minister's reply to that?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: We will go by the views of the House.

International Treaty on Rights over the Ocean

*389 SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any International Treaty on rights over the Ocean;

(b) if so, the salient feafures thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to explore the sea for natural wealth in the Bay of Bengal,particularly in the sea around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(d) whether any scientific research has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so,the results of such research and the possibility for future exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted on 30th April, 1982 and India is a signatory to the Convention. It establishes a comprehensive framework for the regulation of all ocean space. It contains provisions governing inter-alia, the limits of national jurisdiction over ocean space, access to the seas, navigation, protection and preservation of the marine environment, exploitation of living resources and conservation, scientific research, seabed mining and exploitation of other non-living resources and the settlement of disputes.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Exploitation of living resources

Exploration and exploitation of living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone which included Bay of Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Sea is carried out by surveys undertaken by the research and survey vessels of the Department of Ocean